

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Gov. Rell, Rep. Farr: \$500,000 Grant Approved for Unionville Center Improvement Project**



The State Bond Commission today approved a \$500,000 grant for Farmington to help finance a variety of improvements to Unionville Center, Governor M. Jodi Rell and state Representative Bob Farr, R-19<sup>th</sup> District, announced today.

The funding is provided through the state's Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP). The grant was approved at today's Bond Commission meeting.

"This funding will enhance the economic vitality of Unionville Center, helping to retain small businesses and jobs locally," said Governor Rell. "We will be retaining the historic nature of the center while providing renovation grants to business owners and improving access for customers."

"The \$500,000 grant for the on-going Unionville Center improvement program reaffirms the state's commitment to making the Unionville section of town even more attractive and economically successful than it already is," Representative Farr said. "The Unionville Center revitalization project is encouraging the right kind of growth and improving the town's tax base. I'd like to thank Governor Rell for supporting a project that will benefit the entire community."

The Unionville Center Project is focused on improving the business appearance of the area to stimulate additional private investment and attract new businesses and jobs. Grants will be offered to local business owners to improve the outside appearance of their properties. Funding will be used to enhance pedestrian access and safety to the district's businesses by adding new sidewalks and making handicapped access improvements. The old fire house in Unionville also will be restored as part of the project.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$670,000 with additional funding coming from the town and private businesses. A total of \$20 million has been authorized for the STEAP program this fiscal year. This is the first time Farmington has been awarded a STEAP grant.

Governor Rell gave special thanks to Representative Farr his efforts in moving the project and grant application forward.